



Headteacher:
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Founded in 1717

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Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Year 11

Firstly, I and the rest of the staff at Baines hope that you and your families are safe, well and adjusting to the current situation.

I am writing to give you an update regarding the way that GCSE exams will be graded this summer. This guidance was released this lunchtime by OFQUAL and their letter and further guidance is also attached.

The information is relatively self-explanatory and I want to reassure students and their parents/carers that we will use the advice and guidance offered by OFQUAL and the examination boards so that grades are submitted in a fair and equitable manner. It is important to note that the grades that are submitted by school may well be adjusted by the exam boards so that students being awarded GCSE grades this summer are neither advantaged or disadvantaged against other year groups; it is the exam boards that will determine final grades and not school.

It is also important to note that the guidance for OFQUAL only applies to GCSE subjects, not to vocational qualifications. Further information about vocational qualifications will be released in the future. It is therefore important that, whilst external examinations will not take place in vocational subjects, the work that students are doing now may well form evidence to support a grade judgement!

Some of you will be wondering whether you should continue to work on the tasks set by your teachers for **GCSE** subjects. My advice would be "definitely"! If you are unhappy with the grades that you are awarded in the summer, there will be an appeal process, but the reasons for appeal are likely to be very limited in order to protect the integrity of the system that OFQUAL has put in to place. Therefore, if you were unhappy, potentially the best way to gain a better grade would be to sit the exams in the autumn and for this you would need to make sure that you finish your studies and maintain a thorough and regular revision programme.

Please read the attached documents carefully so that you are aware of the process and please look out for further updates as we release them, particularly regarding vocational qualifications. We will continue to keep you informed as we receive more information from the exam boards. We will publish any further updates through our usual communication channels.

Please remember that staff will not necessarily be available over the Easter holiday as they also need a break from a very hectic regime of getting to grips with distance learning.

I hope that you have a safe and relaxing Easter Break with your family.

With warmest regards

Mr A Mycock
Assistant Headteacher